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OXNARD, CA 93030
TEL (805) 486-3776
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California State Senate

SENATOR
SHEILA JAMES KUEHL
TWENTY-THIRD SENATE DISTRICT
CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH



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JOINT COMMITTEE ON RULES

May 14, 2007

Sam Schuchat, Secretary
California Ocean Protection Council
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Schuchat,

I am writing in strong support of the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission's (SMBRC) grant proposal to the Ocean Protection Council for research and monitoring funds to help prepare the Commission for the upcoming Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) proceedings. I am very interested in establishing Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in Southern California as quickly as possible and, to that end, the research and monitoring proposed by the SMBRC are crucial to achieving that goal.

Since a large portion of the Santa Monica Bay lies within the 23rd State Senate District, it will not surprise you to know that I am particularly interested in the establishment of MPAs in the Santa Monica Bay. The Santa Monica Bay is one of the jewels of California, an area that attracts tourism, recreational activity and economic development to the region. Sadly, the marine ecosystems found in the Santa Monica Bay have become seriously impaired due to overfishing, stormwater runoff pollution, and destruction of habitat, as evidenced by the serious decline in kelp beds, the depletion of our fishing stocks and the degraded quality of the water in the Bay.

The SMBRC was established through legislation that I carried in 2002. I continue to work closely with the Commission and believe they are well positioned to lead the effort for the development of MPAs in Santa Monica Bay.

A coordinated and comprehensive effort is needed to ensure that the necessary data is collected in a timely manner and properly submitted to the Department of Fish and Game. The SMBRC has already committed staff and financial resources to forming a MPA Technical Advisory Committee made up of researchers with scientific and policy expertise in marine reserves. Several of these members have experience with the MPA processes in the Channel Islands and Central Coast and have identified the data collection necessary to inform a southern California MLPA process.

Please join me in positively regarding the SMBRC's efforts to establish MPAs by giving immediate attention to their grant proposal and recommending that funds be awarded to help fund the research and project management so crucial to the MLPA process in the Santa Monica Bay and its surroundings.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



SHEILA JAMES KUEHL
Senator, 23rd District

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MAY 16 2007

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 942849
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0041
(916) 319-2041
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SUITE 205
WOODLAND HILLS, CA 91367-2108
(818) 596-4141
(310) 395-3414
(805) 644-4141
FAX (818) 596-4150



May 7, 2007

Sam Schuchat, Secretary
Ocean Protection Council
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612

**Re: Funding for studies and monitoring connected
With Southern California Marine Protected Areas**

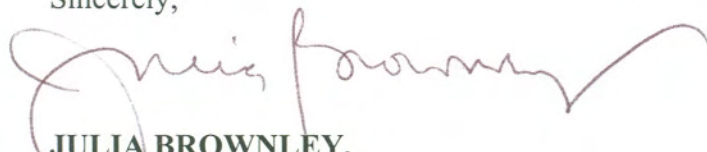
Dear Mr. Schuchat:

As a legislative member of the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission (SMBRC), I am pleased to write in support of the request by the SMBRC for a grant in the amount of roughly \$2 million for research and monitoring needed in anticipation of the upcoming Marine Life Protection Act proceedings.

SMBRC is already in the lead in the coordination of the data collection process, including committing staff and funds to form an MLPA TAC, with experts experienced in the MPA process in the Channel Islands and Central Coast. SMBRC is ideally suited and positioned to manage this important effort, and I respectfully urge your favorable action on their request.

Please don't hesitate to call on me if I may be of any assistance.

Sincerely,


JULIA BROWNLEY,
Assemblymember, 41st AD

cc: Shelley Luce, Executive Director
Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission

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MAY 09 2007

**COASTAL ANCHOR
OAKLAND, CALIF.**



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MEMBER AGENCY OF THE
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DISTRICT
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

May 3, 2007

Mr. Sam Schuchat
Executive Officer
California Ocean Protection Council
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612

**RE: Support for Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission
Grant Application**

Dear Mr. Schuchat,

I am writing to express this District's support for the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission (SMBRC) Ocean Protection Council grant proposal. The research and monitoring proposed by SMBRC will assist the southern California region in preparations for the upcoming Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) proceedings. Further, the work must be conducted on an accelerated schedule in order to contribute to the MLPA process over the next two years.

SMBRC has demonstrated leadership in marine, coastal research and restoration in southern California for more than a decade. We believe it is the most appropriate agency to advance the project. Specifically, SMBRC has a professional staff and basic financial resources to form an MLPA Technical Advisory Committee comprised of researchers with scientific and policy expertise in marine reserves. Several of these staff members have experience with MLPA processes in the Channel Islands and the Central Coast. They are already familiar with the data collection procedures necessary to a southern California MLPA process.

The SMBRC Governing Board and Technical Advisory Committee include representatives from environmental groups, businesses, academia and government agencies, including Las Virgenes Municipal Water District. As such, there is collaborative oversight and direction on projects undertaken by SMBRC.

For over a decade, there has been steady progress in understanding the complexities of Santa Monica Bay. We believe the Council's approval of the SMBRC grant proposal would be a significant step forward in accelerating those efforts.

Sincerely,

John R. Mundy
General Manager

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MAY 09 2007

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.





CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD

CITY HALL
8300 SANTA MONICA BLVD.
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FAX: (323) 848-6562

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(323) 848-6496

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JEFFREY PRANG
Councilmember

May 4, 2007

Mr. Sam Schuchat
California Ocean Protection Council, Secretary
State Coastal Conservancy, Executive Officer
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Schuchat:

I am writing in support of the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission's (SMBRC's) grant proposal to the Ocean Protection Council. The research and monitoring proposed by the SMBRC are essential for the southern California region to prepare for the upcoming Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) proceedings. Further, the work must be conducted on an accelerated schedule in order to contribute to the MLPA process over the next 1-2 years.

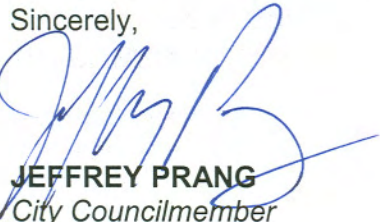
A coordinated and comprehensive effort is needed to ensure that the necessary data are collected in a timely manner and submitted to the Department of Fish and Game in a useful format. The SMBRC, a leader in marine and coastal research and restoration in southern California for more than a decade, is the ideal body to manage the project.

The SMBRC has already begun leading the effort to provide crucial data for the MLPA process in our region. They have committed staff and financial resources to forming an MPA Technical Advisory Committee made up of researchers with scientific and policy expertise in marine reserves. Several of these members have experience with the MPA processes in the Channel Islands and Central Coast and have identified data collection that is necessary to inform a southern California MLPA process.

The SMBRC's Governing Board and Technical Advisory Committee include representatives from environmental groups, businesses, academia and government agencies at all levels. These groups provide oversight and direction on all projects undertaken by the SMBRC. The staff has many years experience in managing state-funded projects and working with researchers to collect, manage and interpret scientific data. They routinely ensure projects are completed on time and within budget and that results are available to the public and the agencies that can benefit from them.

A marine protected area network is our greatest tool for protecting and restoring southern California's incredibly valuable marine resources. I hope you will immediately consider the SMBRC grant proposal and award the funds to complete the much-needed research and project management so crucial to the MLPA process in our region.

Sincerely,



JEFFREY PRANG
City Councilmember

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MAY 09 2007

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.



From: MEDIAFRAN@aol.com [mailto:MEDIAFRAN@aol.com]
Sent: Friday, May 04, 2007 10:42 AM
To: sschuchat@scc.ca.gov
Subject: Fran Diamond SMBRC Support Letter

Sam Schuchat
California Ocean Protection Council, Secretary
State Coastal Conservancy, Executive Officer
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612
e-mail sschuchat@scc.ca.gov

Dear Sam,

I am writing in support of the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission's (SMBRC's) grant proposal to the Ocean Protection Council. The research and monitoring proposed by the SMBRC are essential for the southern California region to prepare for the upcoming Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) proceedings. Further, the work must be conducted on an accelerated schedule in order to contribute to the MLPA process over the next 1-2 years.

A coordinated and comprehensive effort is needed to ensure that the necessary data are collected in a timely manner and submitted to the Department of Fish and Game in a useful format. The SMBRC, a leader in marine and coastal research and restoration in southern California for more than a decade, is the ideal body to manage the project.

The SMBRC has already begun leading the effort to provide crucial data for the MLPA process in our region. They have committed staff and financial resources to forming an MPA Technical Advisory Committee made up of researchers with scientific and policy expertise in marine reserves. Several of these members have experience with the MPA processes in the Channel Islands and Central Coast and have identified data collection that is necessary to inform a southern California MLPA process.

The SMBRC's Governing Board and Technical Advisory Committee include representatives from environmental groups, businesses, academia and government agencies at all levels. These groups provide oversight and direction on all projects undertaken by the SMBRC. The staff has many years experience in managing state-funded projects and working with researchers to collect, manage and interpret scientific data. They routinely ensure projects are completed on time and within budget and that results are available to the public and the agencies that can benefit from them.

A marine protected area network is our greatest tool for protecting and restoring southern California's incredibly valuable marine resources. I hope you will immediately consider the SMBRC grant proposal and award the funds to complete the much-needed research and project management so crucial to the MLPA process in our region. As a member of the Governing Board of the SMBRC, as well as a long time member and current Chair of the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board, I have had a unique opportunity to see and to benefit from their outstanding work. I strongly encourage you to support this grant proposal.

Sincerely,

Fran Diamond



Paul Stimpfl, CFA
Senior Vice President

U.S. Corporate Banking
MAC E2064-12B
333 S. Grand Ave.
12th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90071
213 253-7305

May 8, 2007

Sam Schuchat
California Ocean Protection Council, Secretary
State Coastal Conservancy, Executive Officer
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612
e-mail sschuchat@scc.ca.gov

Dear Mr. Schuchat,

I am writing in support of the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission's (SMBRC's) grant proposal to the Ocean Protection Council. The research and monitoring proposed by the SMBRC are essential for the southern California region to prepare for the upcoming Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) proceedings. Further, the work must be conducted on an accelerated schedule in order to contribute to the MLPA process over the next 1-2 years.

A coordinated and comprehensive effort is needed to ensure that the necessary data are collected in a timely manner and submitted to the Department of Fish and Game in a useful format. The SMBRC, a leader in marine and coastal research and restoration in southern California for more than a decade, is the ideal body to manage the project.

The SMBRC has already begun leading the effort to provide crucial data for the MLPA process in our region. They have committed staff and financial resources to forming an MPA Technical Advisory Committee made up of researchers with scientific and policy expertise in marine reserves. Several of these members have experience with the MPA processes in the Channel Islands and Central Coast and have identified data collection that is necessary to inform a southern California MLPA process.

The SMBRC's Governing Board and Technical Advisory Committee include representatives from environmental groups, businesses, academia and government agencies at all levels. These groups provide oversight and direction on all projects undertaken by the SMBRC. The staff has many years experience in managing state-funded projects and working with researchers to collect, manage and interpret scientific data. They routinely ensure projects are completed on time and within budget and that results are available to the public and the agencies that can benefit from them.

A marine protected area network is our greatest tool for protecting and restoring southern California's incredibly valuable marine resources. I hope you will immediately consider the SMBRC grant proposal and award the funds to complete the much-needed research and project management so crucial to the MLPA process in our region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Paul", written over a faint, larger blue ink signature.

Paul Stimpfl
Senior Vice President

KELLY CHAPMAN MEYER

Sam Schuchat
California Ocean Protection Council, Secretary
State Coastal Conservancy, Executive Officer
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612
e-mail sschuchat@scc.ca.gov

Dear Mr. Schuchat,

I am writing in support of the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission's (SMBRC's) grant proposal to the Ocean Protection Council. The research and monitoring proposed by the SMBRC are essential for the southern California region to prepare for the upcoming Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) proceedings. Further, the work must be conducted on an accelerated schedule in order to contribute to the MLPA process over the next 1-2 years.

A coordinated and comprehensive effort is needed to ensure that the necessary data are collected in a timely manner and submitted to the Department of Fish and Game in a useful format. The SMBRC, a leader in marine and coastal research and restoration in southern California for more than a decade, is the ideal body to manage the project.

The SMBRC has already begun leading the effort to provide crucial data for the MLPA process in our region. They have committed staff and financial resources to forming an MPA Technical Advisory Committee made up of researchers with scientific and policy expertise in marine reserves. Several of these members have experience with the MPA processes in the Channel Islands and Central Coast and have identified data collection that is necessary to inform a southern California MLPA process.

The SMBRC's Governing Board and Technical Advisory Committee include representatives from environmental groups, businesses, academia and government agencies at all levels. These groups provide oversight and direction on all projects undertaken by the SMBRC. The staff has many years experience in managing state-funded projects and working with researchers to collect, manage and interpret scientific data. They routinely ensure projects are completed on time and within budget and that results are available to the public and the agencies that can benefit from them.

A marine protected area network is our greatest tool for protecting and restoring southern California's incredibly valuable marine resources. I hope you will immediately consider the SMBRC grant proposal and award the funds to complete the much-needed research and project management so crucial to the MLPA process in our region.

Sincerely,



Kelly Chapman Meyer

Cc:

Mark Gold

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MAY 14 2007

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

DOROTHY GREEN
801 Holmby Ave Los Angeles, CA 90024
310-270-4151 **greendor@gmail.com**

May 24, 2007

Sam Schuchat
California Ocean Protection Council, Secretary
State Coastal Conservancy, Executive Officer
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612
e-mail sschuchat@scc.ca.gov

Re: Funding for data collection for development of Marine Protected Areas

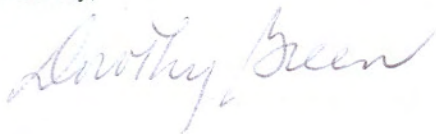
Dear Sam:

The Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission (SMBRC) has requested funding for data collection efforts to support the development of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in southern California. They have requested approximately \$2 million from the California Ocean Protection Council (OPC) for this work, which will support the development of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in the Santa Monica Bay and throughout southern California. The money will be used to fund studies and monitoring as determined by the SMBRC MPA-Technical Advisory Committee; these studies are drawn largely from the Comprehensive Bay Monitoring Program that Heal the Bay helped develop. The SMBRC will provide an additional \$1.5 million in matching funds for this grant through studies that the SMBRC is funding or plans to fund, as well as staff time.

I was disheartened to learn that **the OPC doesn't even have the research scheduled for the June meeting!** I understand that there is a great deal of competition for OPC funding at this time, and as you know, the development of Marine Protected Areas in the Santa Monica Bay is a priority for Heal the Bay. But if we are to have a system of Marine Protected Areas, it is critically important to fund the data collection and monitoring needed, to support California Department of Fish and Game in the MPA development process. The work must be completed within the next year or two, and the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission is the appropriate agency to coordinate the data collection effort.

We are all counting on your continuing support for doing what is right.

Sincerely,



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JUN 01 2007

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.



NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL

May 30, 2007

Sam Schuchat, Executive Officer
California State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612

Drew Bohan, Executive Director
Ocean Protection Council
California Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Schuchat and Mr. Bohan,

On behalf of the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) and our more than 250,000 California members and activists, I am writing in support of the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission's (SMBRC) proposal to the Ocean Protection Council. The research and monitoring proposed by the SMBRC will improve our understanding of the habitats and biological connections along the coast of Southern California and help that region prepare for implementation of the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA).

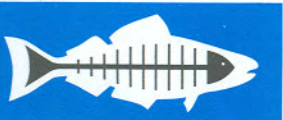
The SMBRC's Governing Board and Technical Advisory Committee include representatives from environmental organizations, businesses, academia and government agencies who provide oversight and direction on SMBRC projects. The staff has many years of experience in managing state-funded projects and working with researchers to collect, manage and interpret scientific data. The SMBRC can act as a respected neutral party to manage this project and disseminate its findings to the public.

The SMBRC has formed a marine protected area advisory committee composed of researchers with scientific and policy expertise on MPAs, including direct experience with the MPA processes in the Channel Islands and the Central Coast. That advisory committee identified the preliminary study areas outlined in this proposal, and the projects are consistent with the type and quality of data collected for other MLPA regions. We believe that getting this research underway now, prior to the initiation of the MLPA process in Southern California, is essential to build a foundation for a sound network of MPAs. In particular, projects such as large-scale mapping and the study of larval dispersal will provide useful information on how Santa Monica Bay is linked biologically to the rest of the region.

This grant request is consistent with grants the OPC has already given for similar work supporting the MLPA. We believe funding the SMBRCC proposal will allow comprehensive oversight over MLPA-related research, which will ultimately help the state get the best data in the best format. We ask the Ocean Protection Council to consider this proposal favorably.

Sincerely,

Kate Wing
Senior Ocean Policy Analyst



1444 9th Street
Santa Monica CA 90401

tel 310-451-1500
fax 310-496-1902

info@healthebay.org
www.healthebay.org

Heal the Bay®

May 31, 2007

Sam Schuchat
California Ocean Protection Council, Secretary
State Coastal Conservancy, Executive Officer
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612

RE: Support for Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission grant proposal

Dear Mr. Schuchat,

On behalf of our 12,000 members, Heal the Bay strongly supports the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission's (SMBRC) grant proposal to the Ocean Protection Council. The research proposed by the SMBRC is essential for the southern California region to prepare for the upcoming Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) proceedings. Additionally, we believe that the SMBRC, a leader in marine and coastal research and restoration in southern California for over a decade, is the ideal body to manage this project. We urge the Ocean Protection Council to fund the SMBRC grant proposal in full as soon as possible, as it will facilitate a greatly needed, time-sensitive effort, for which the work must be conducted on an accelerated schedule in order to contribute to the MLPA process over the next 1-2 years.

Heal the Bay, along with the Southern California Coastal Watershed Research Project, Los Angeles City and County Sanitation Districts, the Department of Fish and Game, academic scientists from various universities including Dr. Rich Ambrose (UCLA), Dr. Dan Pondella (Occidental College), and Dr. Steve Murray (California State University, Fullerton), and others has been working in close collaboration with the SMBRC on its marine protected area (MPA) efforts. This coordinated and comprehensive approach is needed to ensure that data vital to the MLPA process are collected in a timely manner and submitted to the Department of Fish and Game in a useful format.

The SMBRC has already committed to leading the effort to provide data fundamental to informing the MLPA process in our region. They have dedicated staff and financial resources to this work, and coordinated the formation of a specialized Technical Advisory Committee made up of researchers with scientific and policy expertise in MPAs. Several of these members have experience with both the Channel Islands and Central Coast MPA processes. This Committee has already begun to identify data gaps and the research needed to inform the southern California MLPA process.

In addition to its commitment to this work, the SMBRC's diverse membership makes it well-suited to champion this effort. The SMBRC's Governing Board and Technical Advisory

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Heal the Bay®

Committee include representatives from environmental groups, businesses, academia, and government agencies at all levels. These groups provide oversight and direction on all of the SMBRC's projects. Additionally, the staff has many years experience in managing state-funded projects and working with researchers to collect, manage and interpret scientific data. They routinely ensure projects are completed on time and within budget and that results are available to the public and the agencies that can benefit from them.

A network of MPAs is our greatest tool for protecting and restoring southern California's incredibly valuable marine resources. The Ocean Protection Council has a commendable history of providing comprehensive funding to MPA-related work in north and central coasts; this commitment should be upheld by providing comparable funding to the SMBRC for work in southern California. We urge you to consider the SMBRC grant proposal with an expeditious plan to fund the project in full. By supporting this project, not only will the Ocean Protection Council maintain its strength in funding MPA-related work, it will facilitate this important research and project management that is critical to informing the MLPA process in southern California.

Sincerely,

Mark Gold, D.Env.
President

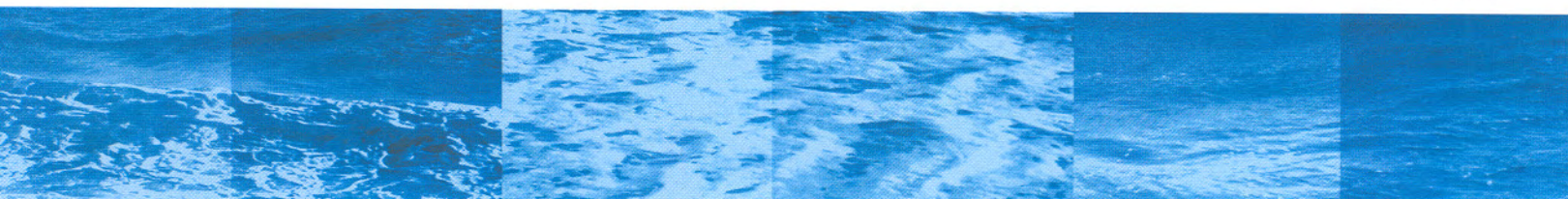
Alexandra Tower, PhD
Director of Science and Policy

Sarah Abramson
Staff Scientist

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JUN 04 2007

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES

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ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING PROGRAM
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH
46-081 CHS
CHARLES E. YOUNG DRIVE SOUTH
BOX 951772
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90095-1772

Sam Schuchat
California Ocean Protection Council, Secretary
State Coastal Conservancy, Executive Officer
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612
e-mail sschuchat@scc.ca.gov

Dear Mr. Schuchat,

I write in support of the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission's (SMBRC's) grant proposal to the Ocean Protection Council. The research and monitoring proposed by the SMBRC are important for the southern California region to prepare for the upcoming Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) proceedings. Further, the work must be conducted on an accelerated schedule in order to contribute to the MLPA process over the next 1-2 years.

A coordinated and comprehensive effort is needed to ensure that the necessary data are collected in a timely manner and submitted to the Department of Fish and Game in a useful format.

The SMBRC is well positioned to manage such a data collection project. The SMBRC has already begun leading the effort to provide crucial data for the MLPA process in our region. They have committed staff and financial resources to forming an MPA Technical Advisory Committee made up of researchers with scientific and policy expertise in marine reserves. Several of these members have experience with the MPA processes in the Channel Islands and Central Coast and have identified data collection that is necessary to inform a southern California MLPA process.

The SMBRC's Governing Board and Technical Advisory Committee include representatives from environmental groups, businesses, academia and government agencies at all levels. These groups provide oversight and direction on all projects undertaken by the SMBRC. The staff has many years experience in managing state-funded projects and working with researchers to collect, manage and interpret scientific data. I think the proposed data collection will significantly strengthen the foundation upon which the MLPA can be applied in the region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Linwood H. Pendleton".

Linwood H. Pendleton
Associate Professor

Biology



Occidental College

Daniel J. Pondella, II, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor

1600 Campus Road, Los Angeles CA 90041

pondella@oxy.edu

323.259.2955 tel. /323.259.2887 fax

Sam Schuchat
California Ocean Protection Council, Secretary
State Coastal Conservancy, Executive Officer
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612
e-mail sschuchat@scc.ca.gov

Dear Mr. Schuchat,

I am writing in support of the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission's (SMBRC's) grant proposal to the Ocean Protection Council. I have reviewed their proposal, find it comprehensive and timely. As you are probably well aware, southern California will be a particularly intriguing challenge for the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) process. The research and monitoring proposed by the SMBRC are essential for the southern California region to prepare for the upcoming process.

The SMBRC is currently working with the Department of Fish and Game to coordinate a comprehensive effort of gathering data layers that will be essential for determining optimal reserve placement, size and spacing for the region. The SMBRC has already begun leading the effort to provide crucial data for the MLPA process in our region. They have committed staff and financial resources to forming an MPA Technical Advisory Committee made up of researchers with scientific and policy expertise in marine reserves. Several of these members have experience with the MPA processes in the Channel Islands and Central Coast and have identified data collection that is necessary to inform a southern California MLPA process.

At our last Technical Advisory Committee meeting, John Ugoretz gave an excellent presentation on the Department's view of the ongoing MLPA process. He highlighted the following areas as critical to this process: 1) detailed habitat maps in a GIS format; 2) fine scale data on species assemblages; 3) commercial and recreational fishing effort and location 4) data on non-consumptive use 5) and additional socioeconomic data. The SMBRC's proposed schedule of research will achieve these objectives and set the stage for the MPA effort in the southern California bight.

The SMBRC's Governing Board and Technical Advisory Committee include representatives from environmental groups, businesses, academia and government agencies at all levels. These groups provide oversight and direction on all projects undertaken by the SMBRC. The staff has many years experience in managing state-funded projects and working with researchers to collect, manage and interpret scientific data. They routinely ensure projects are completed on time and within budget and that results are available to the public and the agencies that can benefit from them.

A marine protected area network is an excellent tool and an important step towards protecting and restoring southern California's incredibly valuable marine resources. I hope you will immediately consider the SMBRC grant proposal and award the funds to complete the much-needed research and project management so crucial to the MLPA process in our region.

Sincerely,

Daniel J. Pondella, II, MA, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Biology
Director of the Vantuna Research Group

13

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

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GOVERNMENT AND RESEARCH RELATIONS

TEL: (858) 534-8400

Fax: (858) 534-6404

9500 GILMAN DRIVE

LA JOLLA, CALIFORNIA 92093-0993

11 June 2007

Mike Chrisman
California Ocean Protection Council, Chair
State Resources Agency, Secretary
c/o Sam Schuchat
California Ocean Protection Council, Secretary
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Chrisman,

I am pleased to write this letter of support on behalf of the Southern California Coastal Ocean Observing System (www.sccoos.org) for the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission's proposal to conduct Research and Monitoring Gap Analysis. As identified in the Ocean Protection Council Staff Recommendation, this project will initiate a process to collect and assess existing information related to the environment and ecosystem of the Santa Monica Bay region, in partnership with organizations like SCCOOS. Identification of the gaps in existing research, mapping, and monitoring of the marine resources in Santa Monica Bay will provide critical information for informed decision making related to future management actions designed to protect the ecosystem. While the time frame to establish Marine Protected Areas (MPA) within Southern California is presently unknown, funding of this work is a proactive first step to ensure that the best science will be available when the MPA process moves to this region. Critical to ecosystem-based management decisions such as establishing MPA's is a thorough understanding of the science behind the cause and effect of observed changes within the ecosystem.

The Southern California Coastal Ocean Observing System, established by 11 marine research organizations and universities within the Southern California Bight, both collects and manages time series data across time and space scales relevant to ecosystem decision making. Of particular relevance is the measurement of ocean climate change and coastal circulation processes that influence the ecosystem. Funded principally by the State of California through the Coastal Ocean Currents Monitoring Program (COCMP) and NOAA's contribution toward regional observing systems that make up the coastal component of the Integrated Ocean Observing System, SCCOOS was established to provide these data for science-based decision support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John A. Orcutt", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

John Orcutt
Southern California Coastal Ocean Observing System
Chair, Board of Governors



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

Southwest Region
501 West Ocean Boulevard, Suite 4200
Long Beach, California 90802- 4213

JUN 13 2007

Mr. Mike Chrisman
California Ocean Protection Council, Chair
State Resources Agency, Secretary
c/o Sam Schuchat
California Ocean Protection Council, Secretary
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, California 94612

Dear Mr. Chrisman,

I am writing in support of the proposed Ocean Protection Council grant funding to the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission (SMBRC) for the proposed research and monitoring gap analysis project. This pilot project is essential for the southern California region to prepare for the upcoming Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) proceedings. Further, the work must be conducted on an accelerated schedule in order to contribute to the MLPA process over the next 1-2 years.

A coordinated and comprehensive effort is needed to ensure that the necessary data are collected in a timely manner and submitted to the California Department of Fish and Game in a useful format. The SMBRC, a leader in marine and coastal research and restoration in southern California for more than a decade, is an ideal body to manage the project.

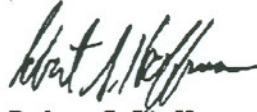
The SMBRC has already begun leading the effort to provide crucial data for the MLPA process in our region. They have committed staff and financial resources to forming a Marine Protected Area (MPA) Technical Advisory Committee made up of researchers with scientific and policy expertise in marine reserves. Several of these members have experience with the MPA processes in the Channel Islands and Central Coast and have identified data collection that is necessary to inform a southern California MLPA process.

The SMBRC's Governing Board and Technical Advisory Committee include representatives from environmental groups, businesses, academia and government agencies at all levels. These groups provide oversight and direction on all projects undertaken by the SMBRC. The staff has many years experience in managing state-funded projects and working with researchers to collect, manage and interpret scientific data. They routinely ensure projects are completed on time and within budget and that results are available to the public and the agencies that can benefit from them.



Increasing impacts on California's oceans from multiple factors are straining the health of our coastal ecosystems. A marine protected area network offers a promising ocean and coastal management tool to mitigate the impacts to southern California's marine resources. I hope you will authorize funding to complete this pilot project and consider additional funding for the much-needed research and project management so crucial to the MLPA process in our region.

Sincerely,



Robert S. Hoffman
Assistant Regional Administrator
for Habitat Conservation

cc:

Shelley Luce (SMBRC)